EXHIBIT 3
DATE 2-14-07
HB HB 567

SUMMARY – HB 567

Establishing Highway Safety Corridors

(1) Authorizes the Transportation Commission to designate up to 12 portions of highways as "Highway Safety Corridors", based on studies showing these areas posing significantly greater risk to motorists, thus justifying enhanced safety measures. Public hearings must be held prior to designation. (sections 2 & 3.)

(2) Penalties for moving violations will be doubled, with signage stating "Highway Safety Corridor. Double Fines Enforced." The additional revenues from the increased fines will be dedicated to paying the cost of signage, emergency phones and additional law enforcement personnel. (sections 4 & 7.)

(3) Emergency telephone call boxes will be installed by MDT at approximately 5 mile intervals. (section 4.)

(4) Signage will encourage daytime use of headlights. (section 4)

(5) Safety Corridors will receive a high priority for enhanced law enforcement and increased commitment of enforcement personnel. (section 5.)

(6) Safety Corridors will be considered high priority areas for safety-related road improvement projects. (section 5.)

(7) Safety Corridors will be high priority candidates for advanced technology warning systems, etc. that modify driver behavior. (section 5.)

(8) Annual reviews of the effectiveness of each corridor designation will be conducted by a qualified independent research entity. (section 6.)

COMMENTS: This bill was developed by pulling together the best elements of existing Safety Corridor laws in Alaska, Virginia, Pennsylvania and Ohio, plus additional ideas from the sponsor and traffic safety experts. The Montana Department of Transportation and the Western Transportation Institute were also fully consulted, and provided valuable input to the final draft. Furthermore, the bill reflects the results of a highway safety opinion poll that surveyed the residents of House District 70, relative to U.S. Highway 191 in the Gallatin Canyon.